

Vol. 9
1.30.20

The Eagle Eye

Sebastian Middle School

Build your Mind, Explore your World, Create your Future

Principal's Message

Dear Eagle Families,

As Literacy Week wraps up today, we have all enjoyed dressing up each day with our students to celebrate the joy of reading. Our focus on literacy continues next week as we host our Spring Book Fair, so I encourage parents, grandparents and all of our students to stop by and shop for a new book. The Book Fair will be open in the Media Center during both home basketball games next week on Tuesday and Thursday, so please come out to cheer our teams on to victory and support the Book Fair at the same time!

Last night, we welcomed approximately 250 rising 6th grade families from each of our feeder elementary schools—Crookshank, Ketterlinus, R.B. Hunt, and Palencia—for an informational session on what to expect as they transition to Sebastian Middle School next year. I especially want to thank the fifth grade teams and the administrative staff from our feeder elementary schools who joined us for dinner prior to the event last night. It was a wonderful opportunity to discuss how to help our students transition from 5th to 6th grade. I am deeply appreciative of our business partner Reiter Roofing who provided the amazing meal we shared together.

Our spring Inquiry Hour session begins next Tuesday, and will run for 8 weeks every Tuesday. As you know, Inquiry Hour is a chance for students to be creative and apply their knowledge in a project-based learning environment, without assessments or grades. Be sure to ask your child about their Inquiry Hour project, and mark your calendars now to attend our Inquiry Hour Exhibition on Tuesday, April 7, 5:30-7:30pm to hear student presentations.

Finally, I want to extend my congratulations to all of our Character Counts award winners listed in this newsletter! Students were selected based on PBIS points and teacher nominations, and celebrated today with a lunch from Zaxby's, which generously donated the meal to support our Character Counts program at SMS.

With much appreciation,

Kirstie Gabaldon, Principal

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Angela Hensley, Asst. Principal

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Kevin Hayes, Dean of Students

Darren Tagliarini, Guidance Grade 6 / 7 A-L
Leanne Fortune, Guidance Grade 8 / 7 M-Z

Important Dates

January 31

*Teacher Inservice Day/Student Holiday
8th Grade Yearbook Ad Deadline*

February 1

Character Counts 3K/6K Walk/Run, 9:00am, Palencia Elementary School

February 3

*Deadline to register for a High School Academy
(rising 9th and 10th graders only)*

February 3-7

*Scholastic Book Fair, 7:30am-1:50pm & 5:00-7:00pm 2/4 & 2/6 (home basketball games),
SMS Media Center*

February 6

*Communication Cornerstone Parent Meeting,
8:30-9:30am, SMS Multipurpose Room
3rd Quarter Interim Progress Reports in HAC*

February 14

STEAM Advisory Board Meeting, 8:00am

February 17

President's Day—Student/Teacher Holiday



Six Pillars Run/Walk

Join Ms. Hagy, Ms. Barnard and other teachers, staff members and students to represent Sebastian in this district-wide event!

Date: Saturday, February 1

Time: 9:00am

Location: Palencia Elementary School

Registration Fee: \$30 online by midnight 1/30; \$35 on race day. Click [here](#) for more information and for a link to register online. Go Eagles!



News from the Media Center

SSYRA author Eric Walters (pictured with Ms. Dempsey and Ms. Barnard) visited SMS this week to speak with 60 students who had read his book *Elephant Secret*.

Battle of the Books: 1/30

The Middle School Battle of the Books is being held today at FCTC! Representing Team Sebastian are students Lucas Cruz, Elijah Edwards, Jude Hicks, Abraham Hoffman, Megan Lay, Gregory Rorex, Donald Stables, and Mason Whitmire. Good luck Eagles!

Scholastic Book Fair Volunteers Needed: 2/3-7

The Media Center needs volunteers to make its Spring Book Fair a success. Click [here](#) to view slots and sign up. The Book Fair will also be open from 5-7pm during Home Basketball games on 2/4 and 2/6!

SSYRA Breakfast of Champions: 2/19

All students who have read at least 7 of this year's SSYRA books by 2/14 will be invited to a special breakfast (Chick-fil-A minis!) on 2/19. An SSYRA list can be found [here](#).



New Eagle Spotlight: Holly Nichols, 7th Grade Math

I just moved to St. Augustine last summer with my husband and 6 children from the Orlando area. We moved to Florida 5 years ago from Boise, Idaho. We love the Florida sunshine and being close to the water!

I graduated from Boise State University with a degree in Elementary Education and a math endorsement. I also have an MBA. This is my 11th year of teaching. I previously taught 5th grade math and science for 10 years. Math is my passion and I am excited to teach middle school math! In central Florida, I taught in a K-8 school with 2000 students, so I am excited to be an Eagle and be in a smaller school with resources to do great things in the classroom and community. Outside of school, I enjoy the beach, traveling, reading, and spending time with my children. Being a mom of 6 keeps me very busy!

Love Your Job? Share It at Career Day!

We invite anyone with a STEAM-related career (in science, technology, engineering, math and the arts) to share their experiences with our students at our annual STEAM Career Day on **Wednesday, March 25, 7:45am-12:30pm**. If you are interested in participating, please contact Susan.Connor@stjohns.k12.fl.us. Thank you in advance for helping spark an interest in our students as they begin to consider what they want to be when they grow up!

Makerspace Challenges in the Media Center

Each month, the Media Center will announce a new Makerspace Challenge, giving students a chance to think outside the box. January's Challenge was as follows: Global warming has affected building on the earth's surface. You must now build upward, using red solo cups to simulate an upward build. In groups of 1-4, students compete to create the tallest, free-standing (for at least one minute!) tower. Pictured here (left-right) are 6th graders Codeiro McIntosh, Zander Brookins, and Jack Gill. Nice job boys!



YMCA Afterschool Program Enrollment Open!

The YMCA afterschool program at SMS is currently enrolling for its next session which will run Tues/Wed/Thurs until 4:30pm from February 4-March 12 if minimum participation numbers are met. Email John Aguilar at JAguilar@fcymca.org for more information and to register.



Winter Sports & Activities Calendar

- ◆ Jan 30—Basketball vs. Pacetti Bay @ PBMS
- ◆ Jan 31—Teacher Inservice Day/Student Holiday
- ◆ Feb 1—Character Counts 6K/3K Walk/Run, 9:00am, Palencia Elementary
- ◆ Feb 3-7—Scholastic Book Fair in the SMS Media Center
- ◆ Feb 4—Basketball vs. Patriot Oaks @ SMS
- ◆ Feb 6—Parent Communication Cornerstone Meeting, 8:30am
- ◆ Feb 6—SJMSAA Tennis Tryouts, 3:30pm, Harbour Island Tennis Club, 205 Harbour Cay Way, St. Augustine Beach
- ◆ Feb 6—Basketball vs. Landrum @ SMS
- ◆ Feb 6—Third Quarter Interim Report Cards in HAC
- ◆ Feb 11—Basketball vs. Fruit Cove @ FCMS
- ◆ Feb 13—Basketball vs. Liberty Pines Academy @ LPA
- ◆ Feb 14—STEAM Advisory Board Meeting, 8:00am

- ◆ Feb 17—Presidents Day/Student & Teacher Holiday
- ◆ Feb 18—SAC Meeting, 2:00pm
- ◆ Feb 19—SSYRA Breakfast of Champions
- ◆ Feb 20—Basketball vs. Murray @ SMS
- ◆ Feb 25—Basketball vs. Valley Ridge @ VRA
- ◆ Feb 27—Basketball vs. Mill Creek Academy @ SMS
- ◆ Mar 3—Basketball vs. Palm Valley @ PVA
- ◆ Mar 10—PTO Meeting, 6:00pm (offsite location TBD)
- ◆ Mar 12—Spring Fling, 12:30-1:50pm
- ◆ Mar 12—SJMSAA Golf Tryouts, 4:00pm, Palencia Golf Club
- ◆ Mar 13—Teacher Planning Day/Student Holiday
- ◆ Mar 16-20—Spring Break
- ◆ Mar 25—Career Day
- ◆ Mar 26—STEAM Night, 5:30-7:00pm
- ◆ Mar 31—3rd Quarter Report Cards in HAC

Note: All Girls Basketball games begin at 5:30pm, Boys at 6:30pm.



8th Grade Yearbook Ads Deadline Extended to 1/31!!

Looking for a special way to honor your student as they complete middle school? Purchase an ad in this year's SMS yearbook! Ads are available in four sizes and prices:

1/8 page—\$25	1/2 page—\$60
1/4 page—\$40	Full page—\$100

Ads will be due by noon on January 31. Click [here](#) to download the order form with additional details, or visit <https://commpe.pictavo.com/> to pay for and design your ad online. Please contact Katie Lay at sklay723@comcast.net with any questions.



Character Counts at SMS!

Congratulations to those students who were selected for our first semester Character Counts

awards, based on PBIS points and teacher nominations:

6th Grade

Maxwell Calvert
Cameron Conroy
Kylie Graham
Ava Houser
Marquis Kelley
Braylan Matos
Merik Pras
Alfie Rosario
Owen Vighetti

7th Grade

Audrey Alvarez
Owen Chiu
James Crlenjak
Bailee Dillon
Malina Jackson
Carl Jenkins
Katie Love
Kyle Mitrosky
Catiria Ramos
Mason Taylor

8th Grade

Skyla Atnip
Christian Bolton
Carolina Carrell
Evan Colsant
Aubrey Forde
Diavihyannah Wilson

These students enjoyed lunch today in the Eagles Nest, with food generously donated by Zaxby's. Nice job everyone!

PTO Corner

One more reminder about all the opportunities PTO provides to get more involved at Sebastian Middle School!

Eagle Store Volunteers Needed on Fridays

Volunteers are needed during all three lunches (9:45am-12:15pm) to staff the Eagle Store, which allows students to shop for school supplies and other trinkets using their PBIS points. Click [here](#) to view available dates and sign up. No time to volunteer? Donate to the Eagle Store by purchasing items on our [Amazon wishlist](#)!

Basketball Concession Volunteers

Volunteers are needed to sell concessions during all home basketball games this season. Click [here](#) to view dates and sign up. Go Eagles!

Spring Fling on 3/12

The Spring Fling is a carnival style event featuring booths and games of all sorts. It will take place during school, from 12:30-1:50pm on Thursday, 3/12. Volunteers are needed to serve on the planning committee and to work booths the day of the event. If you can help in either capacity, please email PTOSebastian@gmail.com for more information.



Eagles Nest Donations Needed!

Students may use PBIS points to bring their lunch into the Eagles Nest, adjacent to the cafeteria, to play air hockey, foosball, and video games. The Eagles Nest needs a Playstation 2 system, and games for Wii, PS4, and Xbox 360. If you have games or a PS2 to donate, please drop off in Guidance or contact Darren.Tagliarini@stjohns.k12.fl.us with questions.



Basketball Scorebook Keeper Needed!

If you love basketball and would be willing to keep the scorebook for home games this season, please contact Coach Abigail.Whittaker@stjohns.k12.fl.us for more info. Thank you!!

Registration for SJMSAA Golf/Tennis Open!

Registration is now open for Tennis and Golf, which are organized by the St. Johns Middle School Athletic Association. Visit the SJMSAA website for more information and to register prior to tryouts at <https://www.sjmsaa.com/>. **Tennis Tryouts will be held on Thursday, February 6, 3:30pm** at Harbour Island Tennis Club, 205 Harbour Cay Way. Tennis Coach Anna Zurek may be reached at annazurek18@yahoo.com. **Golf Tryouts will be held Thursday, March 12, 4:00pm** at the practice greens of The Palencia Club, 600 Palencia Club Drive. Golf Coach Adam Beamer may be reached at abeamerm-ba@gmail.com. If you have any questions about SJMSAA sports, please contact SMS Athletic Director Chad Razey at Chad.Razey@stjohns.k12.fl.us. Go Eagles!

Jr. Thespian Society News

On February 7-8, 8 SMS students will compete in the State Jr. Thespian competition for the first time in over 15 years! Look for the results in the next newsletter. Rehearsals have begun for our spring production. We will be publishing a list of prop needs next month and thank you in advance for your help in growing this fantastic performing arts program. Mark your calendars now to attend the production on Thursday, April 2 at 6 pm!



WEB Applications Due February 12

Current 7th graders are invited to apply to be a WEB (Where Everyone Belongs) Leader during the 2020-21 school year. WEB Leaders serve as mentors to 6th graders and take on other leadership roles at SMS. Contact Web Coordinator Ms. Ralin.Trosclair@stjohns.k12.fl.us with questions or for an application, which will be due by Wednesday, February 12.